

**Amendments to the Specification:**

After the title but before the first paragraph, please insert the following new paragraph:

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This is the national stage of PCT International application no. PCT/JP2004/003776 filed March 19, 2003 and published in Japanese as WO 2004/083426 on September 30, 2004 which claims the priority of Japanese application no. 2003-076254 filed March 19, 2003, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

On a separate page, page 24, please insert the following abstract:

A novel antisense oligonucleotide which targets a DES (Dimerization Initiation Site) region of HIV-1, and an anti-HIV agent (an agent for treating and/or preventing HIV) comprising the same are disclosed. By administration of the antiHIV agent of the invention, an HIV infection may be effectively treated and/or prevented.